

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (New) A projector, comprising:

    a light beam dividing optical element that divides light from a light source into a plurality of partial light beams;

    a polarization conversion element that converts the plurality of partial light beams into one type of polarized light beam polarized substantially in same directions;

    an electro-optical device that modulates an illumination light beam emitted from the polarization conversion element;

    a projection lens that projects light modulated by the electro-optical device;

and

    a polarization selection surface that selects light of a predetermined polarized component included in the illumination light beam, the polarization selection surface reflects the light toward the electro-optical device, selects light of a predetermined polarized component in the light modulated by the electro-optical device and emits the light toward the projection lens,

    wherein the direction of polarization beam separation by the polarization conversion element is in an X-axis direction, when a plane defined by a normal line of a polarization selection surface and a central axis of the illumination light beam is assumed to be a plane of incidence, a direction parallel to the plane of incidence and perpendicularly intersecting the central axis is defined as the X-axis direction, and a direction perpendicularly intersecting the plane of incidence is defined as the Y-axis direction, the light beam dividing

optical element being configured so as to narrow spacings of a plurality of light source images in the Y-axis direction.

3. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 2, the light beam dividing optical element being a rod that reflects light incident from an incident end surface at a plurality of pairs of reflection surfaces, that divides the light according to differences in reflection positions, and that emits the light as a plurality of partial light beams from an emission end surface, and

the rod being disposed so that a spacing of a pair of the reflection surfaces opposing in the Y-axis direction is gradually widened from the incident end surface toward the emission end surface.

4. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 3, the rod being disposed so that a spacing of a pair of the reflection surfaces facing in the X-axis direction is gradually narrowed from the incident end surface toward the emission end surface.

5. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 3, the emission end surface of the rod having a shape substantially similar to a shape of a display area of the electro-optical device.

6. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 3, the rod being composed of a solid light-guiding member consisting of a light-guiding material.

7. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 3, the rod being composed of a hollow light-guiding member having a light-reflecting surface formed on an inside surface of a cylindrical member.

8. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 2, the light beam dividing optical element being a lens array composed of a plurality of condenser lenses aligned in the X-axis direction and the Y-axis direction.

9. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 8, the plurality of condenser lenses having shapes substantially similar to a shape of a display area of the electro-optical device.

10. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 8, the plurality of condenser lenses including a decentered lens.

11. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a reducing optical system that reduces an overall cross sectional size of the illumination light beam in the Y-axis direction disposed between the light source and the polarization conversion element.

12. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 11, the reducing optical system further reducing the overall cross sectional size of the illumination light beam also in the X-axis direction.

13. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 11, the reducing optical system comprising at least one convex lens disposed on one of the incident side and the emission side of the light beam dividing optical element, and at least one concave lens disposed on the incident side of the polarization conversion element.

14. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 13, at least one of the convex lens and the concave lens being formed by a combination of two or more lenses.

15. (New) The projector as claimed in claim 2, the polarization conversion element including a polarization beam separation film that transmits one polarized light beam and that reflects another polarized light beam in two types of polarized light beams, a reflecting film that reflects the other polarized light beam, and a retardation film that unifies the directions of polarization of the two types of polarized light beams in order to unify directions of emission of the two types of the polarized light beams.